

July 2, 2008

Members Present: Susan Payne, Phil Markert, Linda Frank, Kelly Boling

Alternate Present: Ric Sonder, Betsy Corrigan, Diane Dupuis

Guests: Patte Doran, Ann Compton

Staff Present: Shelley White

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. and seated members Phil Markert, Linda Frank, Kelly Boling, Alternate Diane Dupuis and herself.

Consideration of the Minutes:

The June 4, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes were accepted as amended.

Page 2:

Line #: Should read:

7 She invited Commissioners to walk the property. They are aiming for gold or platinum with LEED certification.

16 the property that are further from Bell Hill and Wykeham Road.

22 deleted sentence beginning with Ms. Payne...through rumors.

40 plan will be sensitive. Lighting will point downward and there will...

Motion: to accept the June 4, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended, by Kelly Boling, Seconded by Diane Dupuis, passed 5-0.

Referrals or New Projects:

Diane Dupuis stated that there is a property owner on Rabbit Hill that will be putting in a new driveway and the plan require an old oak tree to be cut down. Ms. Dupuis suggested that maybe the owner was not aware that Rabbit Hill is a designated Scenic Road and that the property owner might consider moving the driveway a little to the left in order to avoid the elimination of the old oak tree. It was suggested that a letter could be sent to remind people of scenic road designations.

Betsy Corrigan stated that she would like the C.C. to review the ecology report for the Wykeham Rise project. She will also be asking to have a walk of the property.

Scenic Road Designation:

Kelly Boling asked Shelley White to make copies of all the letters for the Scenic Road Designation Application as well as the final draft of the application for the office file.

Conservation Easement Model:

Mr. Boling stated that he would like to send a memo to Planning & Inland/Wetlands with the draft of the Conservation Easement Model for their review. He will request that they return any comments to the Conservation Commission.

Ridgeline Protection:

Linda Frank stated that she has put a call in to Kurt Sinclair to discuss the guidelines used in Kent for their Ridgeline map and the cost it would take to produce. The Conservation Commissioners discussed the different parameters and formulas other towns use to identify ridgelines and protected areas. They discussed the possibility of regulations for tree clearing.

Ms. Payne asked that Ms. Frank invite Inland/Wetlands and Zoning and Mark Picton to a meeting with

the Conservation Commission to discuss this subject further.

Open Space:

Ms. Payne stated that she would like to discuss some of the properties that were being considered for the Open Space Fund.

5:45

Motion: to go into executive session to discuss real estate transactions by Susan Payne, seconded by Phil Markert, denied 4-1. Ms. Dupuis was not in favor.

Mr. Boling stated that he was in favor for the C.C. to discuss why they should or should not go into executive session. Ms. Dupuis quoted the Planning and Zoning Statutes, "Executive sessions" and the triggers that are required. She also quoted the "Freedom of Information Act" means in this chapter. Ms. Dupuis stated that she does not see how discussing the property in question will be effected if discussing it outside of executive session as it has been on the market for 295 + days. Ms. Dupuis feels that the plan for this project is well developed at this point.

Phil Markert and Ms. Payne disagree. Mr. Markert stated that the purchase of any property is still in a very conceptual stage. Ms. Payne stated that they are proactively looking at properties and was advised by Town Council to use executive session while discussing these properties until they have a formal proposal.

The C.C. further discussed the procedures for using executive session. Ms. Corrigan stated that 'as a biologist' she believes the most important part of the acquisition of the Open Space Fund should be based more on the value of natural resources.

Ms. Dupuis suggested that maybe more/smaller parcels of better ecological value could be purchased with this fund.

Ms. Corrigan offered to produce a draft of a natural resources map with a parcel overlay.

Ms. Frank stated that the people of the Town of Washington have the final say on how the money should be spent.

Ms. Payne suggested that the Commission needs to be proactive and find these properties. The Commission agreed to come up with a list by September of prospective properties. All of the Commission agree that if a joint venture between Housing and Conservation is to happen that the Conservation/Open Space Fund should not be compromised.

Ms. Payne stated that the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Commission should meet together starting with the August 6th meeting.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting by Susan Payne.

Susan Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley White Land Use Clerk